

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

### **COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

CHE  
10/1/2020  
Agenda Item 6.02.C.

September 17, 2020

#### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chairman Wes Hayes and Members, SC Commission on Higher Education

**FROM:** Chair Charles Munns, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

#### **Annual Report on Licensing Activities for FY 2018-2019**

##### **Background**

This report on licensing activities is for the Committee's information and covers the period from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019.

Under South Carolina law, all licenses for higher education institutions operating in the state are program and site-specific. Thus, an institution must first be approved by the SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE) to operate at a given site for the offering of a given program or programs. An institution that is licensed already must apply for an amendment to its license when one of more of the following occurs:

- The institution seeks to add a field or major not previously offered if that field/major constitutes more than 18 semester hours of credit for undergraduate programs or 12 semester hours for graduate programs;
- Cumulative changes equal or exceed 25% of the contact hours, credits, curriculum content, or program length following the initial program approval or last review by the CHE; or
- Cumulative changes in the course of a calendar year equal or exceed 25% of the field or major licensed.

Licensing staff in the Division of Academic Affairs evaluate requests for initial licensure of new degree-granting institutions, amendments to existing licenses to add degree programs at in-state sites, and amendments to existing licenses to add in-state sites to licensed degree-granting institutions. Staff then prepares these requests and recommendations for the consideration of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL).

Institutions also request modifications for minor changes that the licensing staff approve. Those modifications include the following:

- Course requirements in an existing program that constitute less than 25% of the program’s academic requirements in a year;
- A “concentration” within a program of study that constitutes 18 credit hours or less;
- A name for an existing program of study; or
- The mode of delivery for an existing program of study.

In addition, licensing staff evaluate and approve applications for initial licensure for nondegree-granting institutions (in-state and recruiting), amendments to existing licenses to add nondegree programs, and amendments to existing licenses for nondegree-granting institutions to add in-state sites.

### **Approval of Initial Licensure and Amendments for Degree-Granting Institutions**

During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, CAAL and the CHE approved Miller-Motte Technical College for a three-year license for their North Charleston and Conway campuses.

### **Degree-Granting Institutions Licensed by CHE to Operate Sites in SC**

The following table lists all degree-granting, postsecondary institutions that were licensed to have sites in South Carolina for FY 2019.

The accompanying graphics represent licensed institutions by sector as well as enrollment trends both by total and by sector.

| Degree-Granting Institutions Licensed by CHE to Operate Sites in SC |   |                           |                    |                           |               |                       |                                      |                      |
|---|---|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
|   | Name  | Initial Date of Licensure | Main Campus        | Degree Level <sup>1</sup> | Accreditation | For-Profit/Non-Profit | Location                             | Enrollment Fall 2018 |
| 1.  | A.T. Still University<br>School of Osteopathic Medicine | 10/5/2017                 | Mesa, AZ           | DO                        | COCA          | Non                   | Ridgeland                            | 20                   |
| 2.  | American College of the Building Arts                   | 7/7/2004                  | Charleston, SC     | A, B                      | None          | Non                   | Charleston                           | 74                   |
| 3.  | Art Institute of <sup>2</sup><br>Charleston             | 12/7/2006                 | Atlanta, GA        | A, B                      | SACS          | Profit                | Charleston                           | 158                  |
| 4.  | Augusta University <sup>3</sup>                         | 11/6/2015                 | Augusta, GA        | M                         | SACS          | Non                   | Aiken                                | 0                    |
| 5.  | Centura College <sup>4</sup>                            | 12/18/2001                | Virginia Beach, VA | A                         | ACCSC         | Profit                | Columbia                             | 60                   |
| 6.  | Charleston School of Law                                | 9/5/2003                  | Charleston, SC     | JD/LLM                    | ABA           | Profit                | Charleston                           | 627                  |
| 7.  | ECPI College of Technology                              | 4/17/2000                 | Virginia Beach, VA | A, B                      | SACS          | Profit                | Charleston<br>Columbia<br>Greenville | 486<br>344<br>484    |
| 8.  | Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM)       | 1/7/2010                  | Blacksburg, VA     | DO                        | COCA          | Non                   | Spartanburg                          | 639                  |
| 9.  | Embry-Riddle  | 10/5/2006                 | Daytona Beach, FL  | A, B, M                   | SACS          | Non                   | N. Charleston                        | 36                   |

<sup>1</sup> A Associate's

B Bachelor's

M Master's

Ed.S. Education Specialist

DO Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

DC Doctor of Chiropractic

Pharm.D. Doctor of Pharmacy

DNP Doctor of Nursing Practice

JD Juris Doctor

LLM Master of Laws

D Doctorate

<sup>2</sup> Closed SC location 12/28/2018.

<sup>3</sup> Closed SC location 3/20/2019.

<sup>4</sup> Closed SC location 5/28/2019.

| Degree-Granting Institutions Licensed by CHE to Operate Sites in SC |  |                           |   |                              |               |                        |                        |                      |
|---|--|---------------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
|   | Name                                     | Initial Date of Licensure | Main Campus   | Degree Level <sup>1</sup>    | Accreditation | For-Profit/ Non-Profit | Location               | Enrollment Fall 2018 |
|   | Aeronautical University                  |                           |   |                              |               |                        | Greenville             | 46                   |
| 10.   | Forrest College                          | 3/2/1989                  | Anderson, SC  | A                            | ACICS         | Profit                 | Anderson               | 67                   |
| 11.   | Fortis College                           | 10/1/2009                 | Towson, MD  | A                            | ABHES         | Profit                 | Columbia               | 382                  |
| 12.   | Gardner-Webb <sup>5</sup> University     | 7/6/2000                  | Boiling Springs, NC   | M                            | SACS          | Non                    | Spartanburg            | 0                    |
| 13.   | Golf Academy of <sup>6</sup> America     | 1/28/1998                 | Birmingham, AL  | A                            | ACICS         | Profit                 | Myrtle Beach           | 0                    |
| 14.   | Keiser University <sup>7</sup>           | 6/5/2014                  | Ft. Lauderdale, FL  | B, M                         | SACS          | Non                    | Charleston<br>Columbia | N/A<br>N/A           |
| 15.   | Lenoir-Rhyne University                  | 3/1/2012                  | Hickory, NC   | M                            | SACS          | Non                    | Columbia               | 128                  |
| 16.   | Lesley University<br>(Several sites)     | 5/5/1994                  | Cambridge, MA   | M, Ed.S.                     | NEASC         | Non                    | Beaufort               | 6                    |
| 17.   | Miller-Motte Technical College           | 1/1/2001                  | Clarksville, TN<br>(Charleston);<br>Lynchburg, VA<br>(Conway) | A                            | ACICS         | Profit                 | Charleston<br>Conway   | 629<br>1,020         |
| 18.   | Professional Golfers Career College      | 5/3/2007                  | Temecula, CA  | A                            | ACICS         | Profit                 | Bluffton               | 34                   |
| 19.   | Saint Leo University                     | 5/4/2006                  | Saint Leo, FL   | A, B, M                      | SACS          | Non                    | Charleston<br>Sumter   | 34<br>179            |
| 20.   | Savannah College of Art & Design         | 1/8/2009                  | Savannah, GA  | B                            | SACS          | Non                    | Hardeeville            | 56                   |
| 21.   | Sherman College of Straight Chiropractic | 6/6/1980                  | Spartanburg, SC   | DC                           | SACS/CCE      | Non                    | Spartanburg            | 397                  |
| 22.   | South University                         | 1/1/2002                  | Savannah, GA  | A, B, M,<br>Pharm.D.,<br>DNP | SACS          | Profit                 | Columbia               | 1,132                |

<sup>5</sup> Closed SC location 1/3/2019.

<sup>6</sup> Closed SC location 12/18/2018.

<sup>7</sup> Keiser University never established the sites for which it was granted licensure; license expired 6/27/2019 and did not renew.

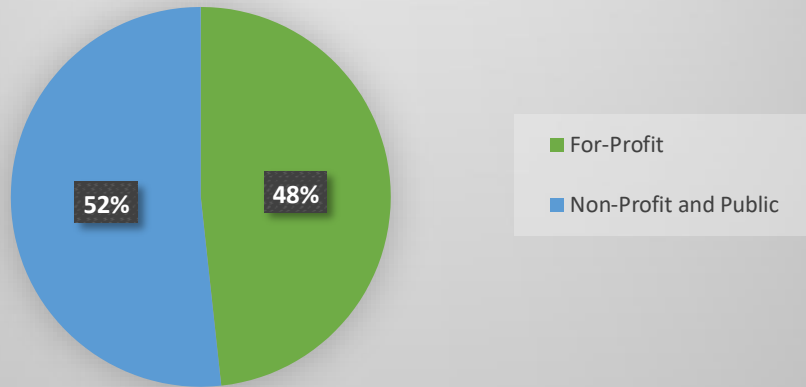
| Degree-Granting Institutions Licensed by CHE to Operate Sites in SC |                                    |   |                    |                           |               |                        |   |                                 |
|---|------------------------------------|---|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
|   | Name                               | Initial Date of Licensure                   | Main Campus        | Degree Level <sup>1</sup> | Accreditation | For-Profit/ Non-Profit | Location  | Enrollment Fall 2018            |
| 23.   | Southeastern Institute             | 4/17/1997<br>(11/7/2013 as degree-granting) | Ft. Lauderdale, FL | A                         | ACCSC         | Profit                 | Charleston<br>Columbia  | 117<br>110                      |
| 24.   | Southeastern University            | 6/1/2017                                    | Lakeland, FL       | A, B                      | SACS          | Non                    | Charleston<br>Columbia  | 2<br>N/A                        |
| 25.   | Strayer University                 | 3/1/2004                                    | Washington, DC     | A, B, M                   | MSA           | Profit                 | Charleston<br>Columbia<br>Greenville                            | 784<br>1,193<br>539             |
| 26.   | Troy University <sup>8</sup>       | 3/31/2003                                   | Troy, AL           | B, M                      | SACS          | Non                    | Sumter  | 0                               |
| 27.   | University of Phoenix <sup>9</sup> | 3/3/2005                                    | Phoenix, AZ        | B, M                      | HLC           | Profit                 | Columbia  | 38                              |
| 28.   | Virginia College <sup>10</sup>     | 10/1/2008                                   | Birmingham, AL     | A, B                      | ACICS         | Profit                 | Charleston<br>Columbia<br>Florence<br>Greenville<br>Spartanburg | 388<br>404<br>345<br>355<br>274 |
| 29.   | Webster University                 | 7/12/1984                                   | St. Louis, MO      | B, M                      | HLC           | Non                    | Charleston<br>Columbia<br>Greenville<br>Myrtle Beach            | 181<br>399<br>77<br>246         |
| <b>Totals</b>   |                                    |   |                    |                           |               |                        | 47  | 12,490                          |

<sup>8</sup> Site provides student support services only.

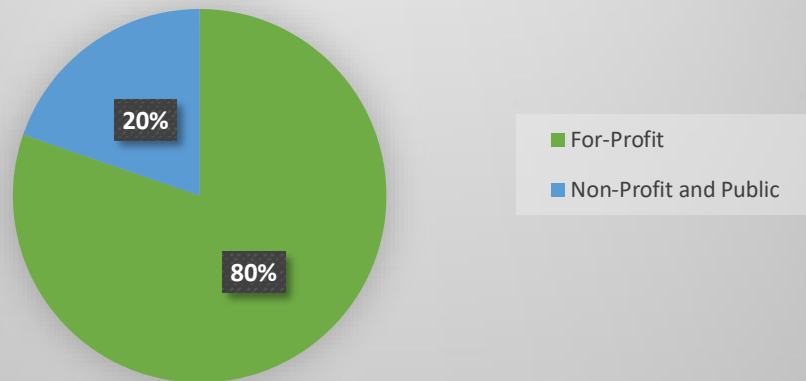
<sup>9</sup> Closed SC location 9/15/2018.

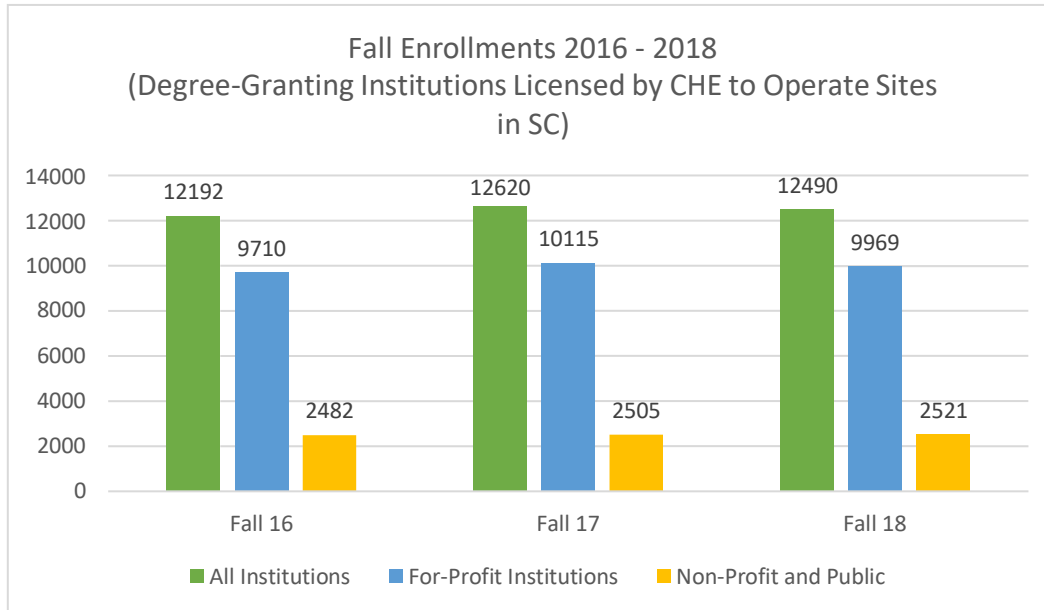
<sup>10</sup> Closed SC locations 12/18/2018.

**FY 2019 Institutions by Sector  
(Degree-Granting Institutions Licensed by CHE to  
Operate Sites in SC)**



**Fall 2018 Enrollment by Sector  
(Degree-Granting Institutions Licensed by CHE to  
Operate Sites in SC)**





In FY 2019, several degree-granting institutions licensed by CHE to operate site in SC either closed altogether (Virginia College and Golf Academy of America) or closed their locations in SC (The Art Institute of Charleston, Augusta University, Centura College, Gardner-Webb University, and University of Phoenix). These institutions reported a combined total of 2,022 students enrolled in the Fall of 2018 at 13 locations in SC. These campuses had reported declining enrollment numbers at their licensed SC campuses since Fall 2016.

However, in FY19, three degree-granting institutions licensed by CHE to operate in the state (Charleston School of Law, Lenoir-Rhyne University, and Miller-Motte Technical College) reported a 50% increase in their Fall enrollments since FY17. Therefore, the closure of SC campuses by several degree-granting institutions in FY19 did not greatly impact overall enrollment figures.

#### **Degree-Granting Institutions Licensed by CHE to Recruit in SC**

The following table lists degree-granting institutions licensed to recruit in SC in FY 2019. These institutions operate no on-ground sites in SC. In FY 2019, two degree-granting institutions (Chamberlain College of Nursing and Northeastern University) were approved to participate by each of their home states to participate in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (NC-SARA). As a result, the two institutions each surrendered their license to recruit in SC.

| Name |   | Degree Level | Modality of Program Delivery                   |
|------|---|--------------|--|
| 1.   | Chamberlain College of Nursing <sup>11</sup><br>Downers Grove, IL               | B, M         | On-line  |
| 2.   | DeVry University<br>Miramar, FL<br>Orlando, FL<br>Alpharetta, GA<br>Decatur, GA | A, B, M      | On-ground at sites in other states and on-line |

<sup>11</sup> Surrendered license to recruit 10/29/2018.

| Name |  | Degree Level             | Modality of Program Delivery |
|------|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|
|      | Addison, IL<br>Columbus, OH  |                          |                              |
| 3.   | Lincoln Technical Institute (formerly Nashville Auto-Diesel College (NADC)), Nashville, TN | A                        | On-ground at its site in TN  |
| 4.   | Northeastern University, Boston, MA <sup>12</sup>  | M                        | On-line                      |
| 5.   | Ohio Technical College, N. Randall, OH <sup>13</sup>                                       | A                        | On-ground at its site in OH  |
| 6.   | Walden University<br>Minneapolis, MN   | B, M, Ed.D.,<br>Ed.S., D | On-line                      |

In FY19, three degree granting institutions licensed to recruit in SC surrendered their licenses. Two of these institutions (Chamberlain College of Nursing and Northeastern University) were each approved by their home state to participate in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) to offer inter-state distance education. Therefore, these institutions were no longer required to seek authorization by CHE to conduct recruiting activities in the state.

### **Nondegree-Granting Institutions**

In addition to licensing of degree-granting institutions, the CHE licenses entities that offer certificate and diploma programs that prepare students for a pre-determined vocation. The CHE has delegated to the staff the authority to review and approve nondegree programs. As of June 30, 2019, CHE licensed 61 schools offering nondegree programs at 153 sites. During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the staff approved initial licensure of the following schools that offer nondegree programs:

|    | Institution Name                                  | Location   | Programs   |
|----|---|------------|--|
| 1. | Advanced Diagnostic Institute                     | Conway     | Automotive Technology  |
| 2. | Capstone Career Development                       | Greenville | Chairside Dental Assisting<br>Medical Billing and Coding<br>Medical Administrative Assistant<br>Nurse Aid<br>Phlebotomy Technician<br>Dental Front Office Administration |
| 3. | Charleston School of Interior Design              | Charleston | Interior Decorating  |
| 4. | New Horizons Computer Learning Center of Columbia | Columbia   | Various Computer Training Certificate Programs   |
| 5. | Next Level Healthcare Institute                   | Rock Hill  | Nursing Assistant<br>Phlebotomy Technician<br>Patient Care Technician<br>EKG Technician<br>Medical Assistant   |

<sup>12</sup> Surrendered license to recruit 9/6/2018.

<sup>13</sup> Surrendered license to recruit 7/2/2018.



During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the following nondegree schools closed or surrendered their license:

|    | <b>Institution Name</b>         | <b>Location</b> | <b>Programs</b>   |
|----|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| 1. | Greenville Montessori Institute | Greenville      | Montessori 3-6  |
| 2. | Groomadog Academy               | Blythewood      | Extensive All-Breed Dog Grooming<br>Comprehensive All-Breed Dog Grooming<br>Groomer's Assistant |
| 3. | International Spa Institute     | Beaufort        | Massage Therapy   |
| 4. | MidCarolina AHEC                | Lancaster       | Nurse Assistant   |

The following table shows nondegree-granting institutions operating or soliciting in SC as of June 30, 2019:

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 1.  | Academy of Massage Therapy and Bodywork (formerly Paradise Academy)             |
| 2.  | Advanced Diagnostic Institute   |
| 3.  | Air Conditioning Refrigeration (ACR) Training Center                            |
| 4.  | American Hospitality Academy  |
| 5.  | Antioch Educational Center  |
| 6.  | ARC Labs, LCC-ArcLabs Welding School  |
| 7.  | Arrhythmia Technologies   |
| 8.  | At-Home Professions   |
| 9.  | Capstone Career Development Center  |
| 10. | Caring Hands  |
| 11. | Carolina Career School  |
| 12. | Carolina Code School  |
| 13. | Carolina Construction School  |
| 14. | Carolina Nursing Assistant Program Academy (CNAPA)                              |
| 15. | Carolina School of Massage & Wellness Center                                    |
| 16. | Carolina Welding Training Institute   |
| 17. | Charleston School of Interior Design (formerly Charleston School of Decorating) |
| 18. | Charleston Woodworking School   |
| 19. | Christ Central Ministries, Inc., d/b/a/ Hope Center School                      |
| 20. | Columbia Hands of Hope  |
| 21. | Construction Training Center  |
| 22. | East Coast Grooming School  |
| 23. | Grand Strand School of Bartending   |
| 24. | H&R Block   |
| 25. | Health Tech Nurse Aide  |
| 26. | Ignite Healthcare Institute   |

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 27. | Institute for Guided Studies                           |
| 28. | International Diving Institute                         |
| 29. | John Casablancas Modeling                              |
| 30. | JRS Coding School                                      |
| 31. | Lake Wylie School of Dental Assisting                  |
| 32. | LaTrice D. Ferguson School of Nursing Assistants       |
| 33. | Legacy   |
| 34. | Liberty Tax Service                                    |
| 35. | MicroStaff IT dba WeKnowIT                             |
| 36. | Millie Lewis Models and Talent                         |
| 37. | NASCAR Technical Institute                             |
| 38. | NDE Institute, Inc.                                    |
| 39. | New Horizons Computer Learning Center of Columbia      |
| 40. | Next Level Healthcare Institute                        |
| 41. | Norris Mechanical, LLC                                 |
| 42. | Palmetto School of Career Development                  |
| 43. | Palmetto Training, Inc. (SC Technical Institute d/b/a) |
| 44. | PATCH Training School, Charleston                      |
| 45. | Pathway Medical Training Service                       |
| 46. | Pee Dee Medical Training Center                        |
| 47. | Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics                    |
| 48. | Plumstead Quality and Training Service                 |
| 49. | Professional Development and Training Services, LLC    |
| 50. | Professional Medical Training Center                   |
| 51. | Professional Training Services                         |
| 52. | Remington College                                      |
| 53. | SC School of Court Reporting                           |
| 54. | SC School of Horseshoeing, Inc.                        |

|     |                                      |
|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 55. | The New York Code and Design Academy |
| 56. | The Packaging School, LLC            |
| 57. | Training Concepts LLC                |
| 58. | Tulsa Welding School                 |

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 59. | Universal Technical Institute- Motorcycle<br>Marine Mechanics Institutes |
| 60. | Universal Technical Institute of Texas                                   |
| 61. | USAeroFlight, LLC  |

### **Student Records**

The CHE is the repository for records of schools that have closed. The CHE processed 143 requests for records in FY 2019.

### **Agent Permits**

The CHE issues a permit to agents who represent and solicit enrollment into licensed institutions in SC. Agents permitted to operate in SC follow-up on leads generated by advertising and soliciting activities by the licensed institution. As of June 30, 2019, staff processed 77 agent permit requests.

### **Student Complaints**

The licensing regulations require that each licensed institution include a complaint procedure in its catalog. The procedure typically includes a formal process by which a student may approach institution officials and seek resolution through the institution. If the student cannot reach a satisfactory conclusion, he or she may submit a complaint to the CHE. CHE staff refer students to other resources and mediate sharing of information between students and school officials. In cases where students file formal complaints, the staff reviews the complaint, sends it to the school for response, transmits the response to the student, and attempts to negotiate resolution of the complaint. Sometimes complaints result in readdressing policies and procedures at the schools in order to avoid future, similar problems.

License regulations also state that the CHE may intervene on the behalf of a person filing a complaint against an exempt institution to determine whether the institution followed and exhausted its own complaint process. Should the CHE conclude that an exempt institution has not complied with its own established policies, the extent of the CHE's authority is to encourage the institution to make reasonable efforts to resolve the complaint in a fair and equitable manner.

During FY 2019, licensing staff received 11 complaints that were processed and closed or referred to another appropriate agency. The following table shows the number of complaints by type of institution and the topics of the complaints.

| <b>Student Complaints Received by CHE 2018-2019</b> |               |                 |               |
|---|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>Institutional Type</b>                           | <b>Formal</b> | <b>Informal</b> | <b>Totals</b> |
| In-State Licensed Degree                            | 0             | 2               | 2             |
| In State Licensed Nondegree                         | 3             | 0               | 3             |
| Out-of-State Degree Branch                          | 0             | 2               | 2             |
| Out-of-State Degree Recruiting                      | 0             | 0               | 0             |
| SC Independent                                      | 0             | 1               | 1             |
| SC Public Exempt                                    | 2             | 1               | 3             |
| Out of State  | 0             | 0               | 0             |
| Illegally Operating                                 | 0             | 0               | 0             |
| Total   | 5             | 6               | 11            |
| <b>Issue</b>  | <b>Formal</b> | <b>Informal</b> | <b>Totals</b> |
| Academic  | 0             | 1               | 1             |
| Administration                                      | 1             | 4               | 5             |
| Conduct   | 0             | 0               | 0             |
| Financial   | 2             | 1               | 3             |
| Miscellaneous                                       | 2             | 0               | 2             |
| Total   | 5             | 6               | 11            |

### **August 2020 CAAL Meeting**

At the August 27, 2020 meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL), Commission staff presented a summary of the report. Committee members requested staff to initiate research on comparable degree-granting programs offered at licensed nonpublic institutions and public institutions in the state. Committee members discussed the trends and variables influencing enrollment shifts at licensed nonpublic institutions compared to students enrolling into South Carolina public institutions. Additionally, Committee members noted Fall 2018 enrollment at licensed degree-granting programs in the state compared to the enrollment at the public institutions, citing demand among students who believe nonpublic, licensed programs serve their needs.

## **Conclusion**

Since FY18, CHE has seen a slight decrease in the number of degree-granting institutions seeking initial licensure to operate sites in SC. Comparable with national trends in postsecondary education, SC has witnessed many multi-state for-profit institutions reduce their footprint in the state due to institutional and/or campus closures. In addition, CHE saw a significant decrease in the number of degree-granting institutions licensed to recruit in SC due to an increase in degree-granting institutional participation in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) in FY19. However, in FY19, several non-profit and public, degree-granting institutions licensed to operate sites in the state increased their Fall enrollments by 50% or more. CHE continues to receive multiple applications each year for initial licensure of nondegree institutions focused on various career fields, from the more traditional allied health programs, such as nurse aide, to expanding fields, such as computer software.

CHE serves as the custodian of student records for many formerly licensed institutions operating in SC that have closed. In FY19, CHE saw an increase of 53% of student record requests processed by licensing staff. This increase was largely influenced by the acquisition of student records from Virginia College and Golf Academy of America.

Future reporting will include the initial assessment of the impact of pandemic conditions.